

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00865 170905Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
TRSE-00 /053 W
-----170932Z 075188 /10

R 170835Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9899
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0865

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NL
SUBJECT: STRIKES SPREAD, CAUSING PORT AND NEWSPAPER SHUTDOWNS

REF: THE HAGUE 771

1. THE STRIKE WAVE SPREAD THIS WEEK, BUT PROSPECTS FOR AN
EARLY SETTLEMENT STILL SEEM ENCOURAGING. BY FEB. 15, 191
FIRMS EMPLOYING 24,150 WORKERS WERE AFFECTED BY STRIKES,
ACCORDING TO UNION FIGURES, IN WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE WORST
LABOR UNREST IN THE NETHERLANDS SINCE THE WAR. (TO THE CASUAL
OBSERVER, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO BE BUSINESS AS USUAL.) AFTER
SOME HARSH WORDS, NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESUMED WITH A ONE PERCENT
DIFFERENCE IN PROPOSED REAL WAGE INCREASES SEPARATING THE TWO
SIDES.

2. EMPLOYERS MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS LAST WEEK ON AUTOMATIC
PRICE COMPENSATION, AFTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER BOERSMA
PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CUT EMPLOYERS' CONTRI-
BUTIONS TO SOCIAL INSURANCE BY 1.5 PERCENT AS OF JULY 1. THIS
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LEAVES REAL WAGE INCREASES AS THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO
A SETTLEMENT. NEITHER THE UNIONS NOR THE EMPLOYERS FEDERA-
TION (VNO) HAVE BUDGED FROM THEIR POSITIONS OF TWO AND ONE
PERCENT RESPECTIVELY, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS HAVE
CAVED ON THE WAGE ISSUE.

3. STRIKES HAVE SPREAD IN PORT, BUILDING, AND MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRIES. ACTION BY PRINTERS CAUSED THE SHUTDOWN OF THREE ROTTERDAM-BASED NATIONAL DAILIES THIS WEEK, AND SEVERAL AMSTERDAM PAPERS MAY NOT APPEAR BY WEEK'S END. UNION LEADERS PLANNED TO CLOSE THE PORT OF ROTTERDAM BY MASS DEMONSTRATIONS FEB. 16, WITH FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR THE HAGUE AND AMSTERDAM. BARGAINING TALKS ARE CONTINUING WITH INDICATIONS POINTING TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

4. A SHIPMENT OF COAL AND ANOTHER OF CONTAINERS DESTINED FOR US ARMED FORCES IN GERMANY HAVE BEEN DELAYED AT ROTTERDAM. THIS MORNING (FEB. 16) WORKERS HALTED PRODUCTION AT THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY PLANT IN AMSTERDAM.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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